



## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

### SOCIAL, HEALTH & ALZHEIMER'S COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES October 2, 2008

#### **Council Members, Liaisons & Committee Participants Present**

Doyle Meredith (Chair), Kati Bates, Bill Engler, George Evanoff, Paul Herrmann, Bernadine Hoffman, Bernadette Polley, Linda Anderson, Karla Averill, David Besst, Karissa Bonkrude, David Coon, Dan Fern, Paulette Fraenkel, Michele Michaels, Julie Ngiriye, Sharyle Price, Kathy Rood, Diana Toussaint

#### **Council Members Not Present**

Lynn Adler

#### **Staff Present**

Melanie Starns, Cathy De Lisa, Dan Plumhoff

#### **Guests Present**

Sonja Bell-Rabb, Mary Busch, Phillip Cardona, Mike Connolly, Jay Crosby, Jami Goldman, Carmen Green, Conni Ingallina, Kirti Khalsa, Bob Mancini, Marcy Ortiz, Roseann Schleifer, Jami Goldman, , RaNee Tuscano, Diane Young

#### **Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes**

Committee Chair Doyle Meredith called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the September 4, 2008 meeting were reviewed.

*Bernadette Polley made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Bernadine Hoffman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **Updates**

##### ***Falls Prevention Coalition***

Executive Director Melanie Starns provided an overview of the proposed Falls Prevention Coalition, its objectives, and the specific tools that will be created under its auspices.

Additionally, Ms. Starns discussed the creation of a Steering Committee for the Coalition, and noted that the coalition should be "kicking off" in January, 2009. A copy of Ms. Starns' Falls Prevention Coalition "Fact Sheet" is available through the Council Office.

##### ***AZ Links***

Ms. Starns reported on the status of the AZ Links program, noting that Ms. Valerie Fifield of the Governor's Office on Aging is managing the program in concert with the Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), and that they are currently working with the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to build coalitions, conduct meetings and



cross-network trainings, and to further develop the program's website.. Additionally, Mr. Mike Connolly of DAAS noted that open enrollment for the Benefits CheckUp program begins in November, 2008, and Ms. Dianna Toussaint, also of DAAS, stated that the new AZ Links brochures are currently available. A discussion ensued, and Ms. Starns provided the Committee with a fact sheet pertaining to federal legislative information on Falls Prevention Day. A copy of Ms. Starns' federal resolution on falls prevention is available through the Council Office.

### **Presentation of Summary Information on Committee's Future Initiatives**

#### ***Oral Health***

Executive Deputy Director Cathy De Lisa delivered a presentation on the Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee's Oral Health Initiative, specifically discussing senior feedback obtained from the 2007 Senior Action Days events, oral health as a policy issue of the Legislative & Policy Coordinating Committee, and she distributed information regarding similar policy initiatives in other states. Additionally, Ms. RaNee Tuscano of the Arizona Department of Health Services' Office of Oral Health provided an overview of her office's program and funding, and she noted that her office is very aware of the needs of seniors, and has put forth recommendations to increase the number of insured seniors and expand oral health outreach among older Arizonans. Additionally, Ms. Tuscano stated that her Office is working with A.T. Still University on a workforce grant aimed at increasing "teledentistry" throughout Arizona, and that there are currently 5 remote sites that are equipped to provide specialized treatment in "real time." Copies of Ms. De Lisa's presentational handouts are available through the Council Office.

#### ***Hearing Loss***

Ms. Michele Michaels of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the state's only Hard of Hearing Specialist, delivered a presentation on Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee's Hearing Loss Initiative, specifically discussing the need for educating consumers and addressing ADA compliance issues. Additionally, Ms. Michaels gave an overview of available assistive listening devices, and she provided the Committee with the opportunity to "try out" one such device, which operates on an FM frequency. A copy of Ms. Michaels' presentational handout is available through the Council Office.

### **Discussion of Committee Projects**

A discussion of Ms. Michaels' and Ms. De Lisa's presentations ensued, and Mr. Meredith circulated individual sign up rosters for each of the two Sub-Committees, noting that the Sub-Committees will hold their first meetings at the November 6, 2008 Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee meeting. Ideas for the Hearing Loss Sub-Committee included education of consumers and information related to ADA compliance distributed through the Arizona Caregiver Coalition, Az Links, and Senior Centers as well as use of the science-based hearing loss prevention curriculum "Dangerous Decibels." Ideas for the Oral Health Sub-Committee included education with emphasis on prevention and nutrition, becoming a catalyst for expanded duties of dental care providers, working to re-institute the ALTCS dental care benefit, supporting the Affiliated Dental Hygienist expansion of duties to serve seniors in the community, and supporting fluoride varnish for seniors.



### **Other Updates, New Business, & Announcements**

- Mr. David Besst announced that the U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) has confirmed that Arizona is one of eight states awarded a one-year, \$250,000 grant for establishing an evidence-based program to support caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

### **Action Items**

- Sub-Committees of the Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee will meet in breakout sessions during the November meeting to discuss next steps.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Committee Chair Doyle Meredith at 4:25 p.m.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee meeting will be November 6, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. in the State Executive Tower, Second Floor Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.